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California Farmer

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December 1, 1966

Dr. Robert F. Thorne
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
1500 North College Ave.
Claremont, California

Dear Dr. Thorne:

The percentages are going down - only one to three. These have been lying around for awhile, so thought I'd just take a chance and send them to you. The flower looks so ordinary that I thought sure I could find its identity but had to give up. The leaf is what throws me most. Don't waste a second thought on the two leaf-only specimens unless you happen to recognize them immediately. Will ask for blossoms or fruit.

No. 1: From La Mirada, L.A. Co. - "Please give the name of this vine."

No. 2: From Moorpark, Ventura Co. - "Enclosed is a leaf from a plant which came up volunteer in my garden. The plant is very large, almost 3 feet in diameter. The leaves all grow from the center. The plant is low to the ground - no bloom yet." (If this turns out to be something common like an artichoke I'll eat it, leaves and all. - mm)

No. 3: From Atherton, San Mateo Co. - "May I be informed about this plant. It has so many fruits and we do not eat it."

No. 4: No specimen, but just another weird request. A subscriber writes that while on a trip to South America several acquaintances mentioned "The African Rose Palm". ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ He wants to know if we can tell him where to find out more about it. If you've heard of a plant by that name you're among a select few. Have exhausted all our sources of information without a glimmer. There is an "African Oil Palm", Elaeis guineensis, mentioned, but I'm afraid that's not close enough.

Will try not to send you any more impossible problems this year. Hope you have a very pleasant holiday season.

Sincerely,

Marjorie McAlinden
Marjorie McAlinden

MM:sc
Enc.